



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Re the application of: Bessette et al.

Serial No.: 09/679,705

Filed: October 5, 2000

For: *Compositions and Methods for Production of Disulfide Bond Containing Proteins in Host Cells*

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Attorney Docket No.: H MV-052.01

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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July 16, 2001

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By: 

Robert King

RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO COMPLY AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows.

In the specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 with the following replacement paragraph:

Q' In yet another preferred embodiment, the host cell is further modified to increase its ability to proliferate. The modification can, e.g., increase the reducing capacity of the cytoplasm sufficiently to increase the growth of the host cell. The modification can be a mutation in a gene, e.g., a suppressor mutation, or it can an introduction and expression of a gene encoding a growth promoting protein into the host cell. In a preferred embodiment, the gene encoding the AphC subunit of the alkyl hydroperoxidase is mutated in the host cell, e.g., by the presence of a mutation in the TCT triplet rich region of the gene (see Figure 8A). In another embodiment, a gene encoding a mutated form of AphC is introduced and expressed in the host cell. Such host cells preferably have a growth curve that is similar to that of the wild type parent strain. Particularly preferred host cells are the host cells described in the Examples, referred to as FA112 and FA113, which are *trxB gshA supp* and *trxB gor supp* mutants, respectively. These two strains have been deposited at the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, VA 20110-2209 on 20/464152.1